

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 292454

14

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

OMB-01 /071 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JALIMPRECHT:JL

APPROVED BY EUR/WE:REBARBOUR

EUR/P - MR. GEHRON

----- 062072

R 010359Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS STATE 292454

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN GETS FAVORABLE US PRESS

1. THE TENOR OF THE WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL "TOWARD DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN" OF 11-24, TRANSMITTED TO POST BY USIA WIRE, CAPS RECENT FAVORABLE COVERAGE OF SPANISH TRANSITION IN POST AND NEW YORK TIMES. REPORTS FROM SPAIN SINCE CORTES APPROVAL OF REFORM BILL HAVE BEEN MUCH LESS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT SPAIN'S FUTURE AND MUCH MORE WILLING TO CREDIT SUAREZ'S GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY AS WELL AS ITS GOOD INTENTIONS. CORTES APPROVAL OF THE REFORM BILL RATED PAGE ONE COVERAGE IN BOTH NEW YORK TIMES AND POST. MARKHAM IN TIMES FOLLOWED A STRAIGHT FACTUAL REPORT OF THE CORTES ACTION WITH COMMENT THAT STRENGTH OF HARD CORE FRANCOIST RIGHT SEEMED TO BE DISINTEGRATING RAPIDLY AND LEFT OPPOSITION SEEMED INCREASINGLY WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH GOVERNMENT.

2. TIMES EDITORIAL NEXT DAY (11-20) CALLED CORTES VOTE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 292454

"TREMENDOUS VICTORY" FOR SUAREZ, BUT WARNED IT IS TOO

EARLY " TO SPEAK OF DISMANTLING FRANCO'S LIFE WORK". WHILE
GENERALLY ACCEPTING OPPOSITION ARGUMENT THAT SPAIN'S ROUTE
TO FREEDOM SHOULD BE WITH PARTICIPATION OF ALL DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS, TIMES ARGUED REFERENDUM BOYCOTT WOULD BE

UNWISE. 11-22 ANALYTICAL PIECE BY MARKHAM SUGGESTS DEMOCRACY
IS INEVITABLE, BUT PROBLEMS REMAIN, ESPECIALLY NEGOTIATING
ELECTORAL LAW WITH OPPOSITION. GENERAL TONE IS OPTIMISTIC,
"A COUNTRY WHOSE MODERN HISTORY HAS BEEN A SEQUENCE OF
UNEDIFYING CONVULSIONS IS MOVING UNDRAMATICALLY TOWARD
A FUTURE THAT PROMISES TO BE SHARPLY DIFFERENT FROM THE
RECENT PAST".

3. MARKHAM'S PIECE 11-26 ON PSOE CONGRESS SPECULATED THAT
GOVERNMENT DID DEAL WITH PSOE TO GET NOVEMBER CONGRESS
POSTPONED AND THAT PSOE WILL PROBABLY PARTICIPATE IN
SPRING ELECTIONS. ACOCA PIECE IN POST 11-27 ON SUAREZ-
SOARES MEETING STATED THAT MEETING WAS CONFIRMATION OF LES-
SENED MADRID-LISBON TENSIONS AS SPAIN MOVES TOWARD DEMOCRACY
AND SPECULATED THAT SOARES MAY HAVE TOLD SUAREZ AT SPANISH
SOCIALIST REQUEST LEGALIZATION OF COMMUNISTS ESSENTIAL IF
DEMOCRACY TO FLOURISH IN SPAIN.

4. OUR READING IS THAT THE POST AND TIMES ARE NOW
GENUINELY IMPRESSED WITH SUAREZ GOVERNMENT. ANY
LINGERING PESSIMISM ABOUT SPAIN'S FUTURE SEEMS TO DERIVE NOT
FROM DOUBTS ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO BRING ABOUT
REAL DEMOCRACY, BUT FROM PERCEPTION THAT MAJOR HURDLES STILL
LIE AHEAD. ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE292454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JALIMPRECHT:JL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760444-1085
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761282/aaaactfc.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPAIN GETS FAVORABLE US PRESS
TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, SP, US
To: MADRID
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006